



**Video Statement by H.E. Bob Rae (Canada)**

**President of the Economic and Social Council**

**34th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

**19 May 2025**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. I applaud the thematic focus of this session on addressing new, emerging, and evolving forms of crime, including environmental crimes, smuggling, and trafficking in cultural property – which is more relevant than ever.

Crimes affecting the environment – such as the illegal exploitation of natural resources, wildlife trafficking and pollution-related offences – undermine ecosystems, erode the rule of law and jeopardize vulnerable communities.

Smuggling of commercial goods and the trafficking or destruction of cultural property also threaten economic stability, cultural heritage and sustainable development.

These crimes exacerbate social tensions, fuel illicit financial flows and act as potential drivers of conflict.

The spread of misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, and gender-based abuse online poses new risks to social cohesion, human rights and democratic governance.

These crimes transcend national borders and require collaborative responses. The work of the Commission in fostering international cooperation, promoting evidence-based policies and strengthening institutional capacities is vital for effective criminal justice systems worldwide.

I also look forward to the 15<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Abu Dhabi in 2026. This will be another critical opportunity to shape policy and address evolving challenges.



Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the current session, the Economic and Social Council has emphasized sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions that are people-centred and future-oriented.

The Commission's contributions to the 2025 High-level political forum on sustainable development will enrich discussions and ensure crime prevention and criminal justice remain integral to implementing the 2030 Agenda. ECOSOC will continue to support the Commission's work through collaboration and coordination with other bodies.

I wish you fruitful discussions and I look forward to learning more about the outcomes of your deliberations.

Thank you.